

USDA - Forest Service  
Deschutes National Forest  
Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District  
Notice of Decision  
Cluster II Range Allotment Environmental Assessment

On January 20, 2006, Forest Supervisor Leslie Weldon, made a decision to implement Alternative 2 of the Cluster II Range Allotment Environmental Assessment (EA). Alternative 2 will authorize grazing on approximately 142,162 acres of National Forest lands in three cattle and horse allotments and close one sheep and goat allotment to livestock grazing. New permits will be issued to the current permittees in the Quartz Mountain and Sand Springs Allotments. A prospectus process will be initiated that will select a qualified grazing applicant, whereby a new permit will be issued to the qualified applicant to stock the Cabin Lake Allotment (this will be dependent on available funding to initiate the process and interest from the public). New allotment management plans (AMP) would be written to reflect current direction, changed conditions, and management requirements for the Quartz Mountain, Sand Springs, and for the Cabin Lake Allotment, when it is stocked. All allotments would be grazed under a rest rotation grazing system except for the Sand Springs Pasture of the Sand Springs Allotment that will operate under a deferred rotation system. This alternative is particularly responsive to the issues identified in the EA.

The Cluster II project area encompasses approximately 142,162 acres of National Forest system lands, 1,018 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands, and 500 acres of privately-owned land. Legal Description: Deschutes County, Oregon; T. 21 S., R 15 & 16 E, Sections 1-36, T.22 S., R 14-16 E., Sections 1-36, and T. 23 S., R 11 E., Section 24, Willamette Meridian. Four grazing allotments are involved: Sand Springs – 55,967 acres, Quartz Mountain – 34,087 acres, Cabin Lake – 26,192 acre, and Crater Buttes – 26,416 acres.

The group of allotments in the planning area is located southeast of Pine Mountain and north of Christmas Valley, borders the Newberry National Volcanic Monument on the west and follows the boundary between the Deschutes National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management and private land owners on the east and southeast. Elevations range from approximately 4,500 feet above sea level at the extreme southern end of the planning area to about 6,100 feet above sea level at the top of Quartz Mountain.

The project area is outside the range of the northern spotted owl and boundary of the Northwest Forest Plan, but within the boundaries of the Revised Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales (Interim Direction), also known as the Eastside Screens.

This decision is subject to appeal by either 36 CFR 215 or under 36 CFR 251, subpart C but not both appeal regulations. Any written notice of appeal of the decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 215.14, "Appeal Content." The notice of appeal must be filed hard copy with the Regional Forester, ATTN: 1570 APPEALS, 333 S.W. First Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3623, faxed to (503) 808-2255, sent electronically to [appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us), or hand delivered to the above address between 7:45AM and 4:30PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays. The appeal must be postmarked or delivered within 45 days of the date the legal notice for this decision appears in The Bulletin. The publication date of the legal notice in The Bulletin is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal and those wishing to appeal should not rely on dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format or portable document format only. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above or in other formats than those listed or containing viruses will be rejected. Only individuals or organizations who submitted substantive comments during the comment period may appeal. This project may be implemented 50 days after this legal notice if no appeal is received. If an appeal is received the project may not be implemented for 15 days after the appeal decision. For further information, contact Mark Macfarlane, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon, 97701, (phone 541-383-4769, email [mmacfarlane@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmacfarlane@fs.fed.us)).